

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a honeycomb structural body having a sealing material layer on a peripheral portion of a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, comprising:

preparing a pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;

applying a paste-like sealing material, which is a raw material of said sealing material layer, onto a circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member;

fitting a plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper, which is configured to be brought into contact with the circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member so as to slide thereon, to said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member; [[and]]

first moving said ring-shaped scraper in a first length direction of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, thereby expanding the paste-like sealing material applied on to the circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member so as to spread over the entire circumferential face of said pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, said scraper being moved while the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member is secured, and

second moving said ring-shaped scraper in a second length direction of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member, starting from the end face of the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member on the side opposite to the starting side of said first moving of said scraper.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The manufacturing method according to claim 1, wherein the pillar-shaped porous honeycomb member has a cross-sectional shape perpendicular to the length direction which is other than a round shape.

Claims 3-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising disposing a center member made from a material that is softer than the material of said pillar-shared porous honey comb member inside of said plate-shaped and ring-shaped scraper.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein a viscosity of said paste-like sealing material is in a range from 15 to 45 Pa·s.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said paste-like sealing material comprises an inorganic filler and an inorganic binder, and said inorganic filler has an aspect ratio in a range from 1.01 to 10.00.